

Says Hard Coal Interests Get \$2 Profit at Mine

Philip Murray, Union Vice-President, Charges Excessive Freight Rate Is Factor in High Cost

Denies Operators' Claims

Attacks Royalties Paid in Connection With Lease of Properties as "Thievery"

Excessive freight rates charged by the anthracite-hauling roads cause the anthracite interests "represented both in the roads and the coal companies" to receive a profit in excess of \$2 a ton at the mines, it was charged yesterday by Philip Murray, vice-president of the United Mine Workers.

Mr. Murray's statement was issued chiefly in denial of a claim of the operators that granting of the hard coal miners' demands would add \$170,000,000 a year to the consumers' coal bill. He also attacked the royalties paid in connection with the leasing of anthracite properties, terming them "thievery."

Reply to Warriner Statement

The operators' claim was made on Sunday as the opening gun in the presentation of their counter evidence against that placed by the miners before the anthracite scale committee, which will resume its sessions in the Union League Club today. The Sunday statement was issued by Samuel D. Warriner, chief spokesman for the operators in the negotiations.

"While we have no way of checking up Mr. Warriner's figures at this time, it has been contended by the operators that their pay rolls amount to \$300,000,000 a year," said Mr. Murray. "As we are asking a 20 per cent increase, \$60,000,000 a year would be added to the pay rolls through the granting of our demands. How Mr. Warriner can explain the balance of \$170,000,000 which would be required to arrive at his estimate of \$170,000,000 I fail to discern."

Mr. Murray said that Mr. Warriner in his statement "had remained silent on other factors entering into the cost of coal" and named high freight rates as one of these. He said that the anthracite carriers receive \$3 a ton for hauling to tidewater, New York, and that were this cut in half—"still allowing the carriers a substantial profit"—the reduction would bring a decrease of \$110,000,000 a year in the cost to the consumer.

"Such a saving, alone, would enable the operators not only to pay the wage increase sought, but also would permit them to cut the price to the consumer substantially," Mr. Murray continued.

Comparison of Rail Rates

"Comparison of the anthracite freight rates to tidewater and those for hauling bituminous to tidewater

from the Central Pennsylvania fields show that the hard coal carriers receive a rate of 80 cents a railroad car of 47 gross tons a mile, while the corresponding rate for bituminous is only 40 cents.

"The chief reason for this is that the big operating anthracite railroads and coal companies represent the same interests. The operators would have the public believe they are operating their mines on a margin of sales realization amounting to 30 cents a ton, when in reality, adding the excessive freight rates they are charging themselves, the anthracite interests are getting a profit of more than \$2 a ton at the mines."

Concerning the progress of the strike, Mr. Murray said that while the latest report of the United States Geological Survey showed a total non-union bituminous production last week of 3,500,000 tons this included "the first two or three days of the strike, when operations in the non-union fields were not nearly so greatly affected as they are now." He forecast action by the government in regulating heating and lighting, as a shortage develops, saying this would throw thousands out of employment.

The national executive committee of the Socialist party took a hand in the situation during the day by issuing a "manifesto" calling for nationalization of coal mines.

Eight More Mines Close, Union Leaders Announce

Thirteen Thousand Former Non-Union Men Join Strikers in Coke Section, Is Report

PITTSBURGH, April 10.—Conflicting claims marked the close of the tenth day in the bituminous coal strike, with these outstanding developments in the situation:

Two steel plants closed down, the Shoenberger Works, of the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, in this city, employing 1,400 men, and the Mingo Works of the Carnegie Steel Company, Mingo Junction, Ohio, employing 1,500 men.

With these plants five blast furnaces, fueled with coke, were blown out, which with two blown Sunday by the Republic Iron and Steel Company, near Youngstown, Ohio, and the Carnegie Steel Company, Etna, this County, make seven furnaces down in two days.

District No. 8 United Mine Workers, announced eight more mines were struck to-day in the non-union Connellville coke region, furnishing the big steel companies coke for their blast furnaces; claimed eighty mines are now closed, and that 13,000 former non-union employees of the H. C. Frick, W. T. Rainey and Coal & Coke companies in the territory have already been enrolled as members of the United Mine Workers.

Vice President P. T. Fagan, of District 8, named the latest mines down in the coke region as Oliver Nos. 1, 2 and 3, of the Oliver Snyder Steel Company; Brownfield, Phillips, Deargh, York Run and Grossland, employing all told, 1,200 men.

He placed the number of men, all previously non-union, on strike in the coke region "in excess of 30,000."

War Fuel Laws May Be Revived, Miners Declare

Federal Conservation Will Be Necessary if Strike Is Prolonged, Say Chiefs; Pinch Already Is Felt

50,000 More Join Union

Lewis Believes 640,000 Workers Now Are Participating in Walk-Out

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
INDIANAPOLIS, April 10.—Revival of the war-time fuel administration to supervise the price and distribution of coal next winter may be necessary if the mine strike is prolonged, it was said at United Mine Workers headquarters here to-day. A coal shortage is almost a certainty if the reserve is worn down to 30,000,000 tons, and government action will be necessary to prevent suffering in some sections, it was added.

Certain small industries already are beginning to feel the pinch of the strike, it was said, just as they are emerging from a business depression. They are expected to bring pressure upon the administration in Washington to force mine owners into wage confessions with their employees, refusal of which precipitated the suspension.

The government, however, has determined upon a "hands off" policy, which it will pursue indefinitely if non-union production can supply 750,000 tons daily. Washington officials desire to let the two factions settle their differences on the field of industrial war if public welfare is not endangered.

If non-union production can be built up from 500,000 tons daily, the record of the first week in the strike—no move is expected from government quarters and industries will continue eating into the reserve supply, which was 65,000,000 tons on April 1, the beginning of the strike.

"When this is cut to 30,000,000 tons the surplus will be unusually low and America will be on the verge of a fuel famine," one miner official declared.

"Then the operators will attempt to profit by the old law of supply and demand and by signing up long-time contracts with panicky buyers while prices are high. A fuel administrator would be necessary at that stage of the game."

Miner chiefs are confident the outcome will be in their favor. They say the strike is growing in scope each day, as thousands of non-union miners walk out in sympathy and become members of the United Mine Workers.

Approximately 50,000 non-union miners in the bituminous fields have joined in the nation-wide strike of miners. John L. Lewis, international president said to-day. About one-half of the 150,000 men in the anthracite mines are not members of the union and officers said several days ago these were participating in the strike. This

would make a total of more than 125,000 non-union men out.

"We are making progress in the non-union fields," Mr. Lewis said. "The union men are standing firm."

While no exact estimate was made of the men participating in the suspension, it was estimated from Mr. Lewis' statement that union officials regarded their former estimate of 600,000 as having been exceeded. It was said authoritatively that the union leaders believed that 640,000 men are participants in the walk-out.

Mr. Lewis declined to apportion the distribution by states of the non-union strikes, further than to say 30,000 had been enlisted in central Pennsylvania and several thousand in West Virginia, these states being those where the union centered attack on non-union operators.

Numerous messages were received to-day by Mr. Lewis, he said the only significant change was that progress was being made toward organizing the non-union miners.

Daughter in Indianapolis

The "secret mission" of Harry M. Daugherty, Attorney General, who arrived here this morning, was frankly admitted as being to investigate the facts in the coal strike. In addition he is here to consider the pending case against miners and operators, indictments of which were returned more than a year ago in Judge A. B. Anderson's court. He held a two-hour conference with Judge Anderson.

"The government desires to know all it possibly can," Mr. Daugherty said. "It hopes to get a complete story of the various meetings of the miners and operators. The government is not taking sides, but it is interested. We are not deciding now who is right or who is wrong."

Explains Miners Resist Cuts and Farmers Don't

Union Leader Answers Question as House Board Ends Strike Inquiry for the Present

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The hearings of the House Labor Committee on the national coal strike were concluded to-day for a time at least, the last day being devoted to taking testimony of labor spokesmen who denied charges of the operators that union contract breaking was a factor in the walk-out. Chairman Nolan of the committee said there were no plans at present for a further investigation of the strike, but the committee will meet Wednesday in executive session to take action on the Brand bill, which would set up a Federal coal commission to deal with such situations.

Witnesses appearing before the committee to-day included Edgar Wallace, Labor Federation legislative agent and a member of the miners' union, John Heister, president, and William Mitchell, secretary of the Indiana district of the United Mine Workers, and James Lord, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor.

Examination of the witnesses was enlivened at one time by Representative Atkeson, Republican, of Missouri, who desired to show, he said, that it is the money question hindering the miners rather than "questions of labor organization or conference with the operators."

"Miners up to last week were getting 31 per cent more than they got during the peak of prices during the war," he declared in asking Mr. Wallace "why aren't you willing to skin down a little now when farmers have lost 50 per cent of what they had then?"

"Is there any reason why we should

lose because farmers weren't organized?" Mr. Wallace replied.

The entire operation of deflation as affecting wages and prices, Mr. Wallace said, was artificially forced upon farmers and upon labor, had produced injustice and should be resisted.

"The difference between us and the farmers," he said, "is that we are resisting."

Labor Board Denounced As Rail Unions Meet

CHICAGO, April 10.—Severe condemnation of the Railroad Labor Board and the law which created it marked the opening to-day of the sixth biennial convention of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the Federation, and Bert M. Jewell, head of the railway department, scoring the transportation act as "the most vicious piece of legislation ever foisted on the people."

Delegates from the shop crafts, clerks' and switchmen's unions heard President Gompers characterize the law and the labor board as "injuries and a failure" and plead for a united fight against "industrial autocracy." Whether the shopmen will go along with future decisions of the board will be largely decided, Mr. Jewell said, at the convention, which is expected to last two weeks and will dispose of important questions affecting 750,000 railway workers.

Britain Seeks Favored Tariff

In Brazil, Declares Baldwin
LONDON, April 10.—Stanley Baldwin, president of the Board of Trade, told the House of Commons to-day in answer to a question that advantage would be taken of any opportunity which might occur in the future for re-opening negotiations with any prospect of success to bring about preferential tariffs between England and Brazil similar to those extended by Brazil to the United States and Belgium.

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"Chinatown Gertie" Dies

After Talk at Mission Former Pickpocket, Reclaimed by Salvation Army, Victim of Heart Disease

"Chinatown Gertie," an active worker with the Salvation Army, died Sunday of heart disease at her home in Cherry Street.

Gertie, at the time of her conversion eleven years ago, already had bought carbolic acid with which to commit suicide. Passing a Salvation Army meeting, the bottle clutched in her hand, she felt the inspiration of their teachings. She stopped to listen and the poison never was used. Instead she devoted herself tirelessly to the effort of reclaiming her former associates.

Throughout the winter Gertie, former

pickpocket and concert hall woman, spent practically all of her time working with the Salvation Army at the Bowery headquarters. Her last act was to speak at the Sunday afternoon men's service at the Salvation Army Men's Hotel at 227 Bowery. One hour later she was dead.

Ship Owners Continuing Study of Shipping Bill

Changes to be recommended in the ship subsidy bill now pending in Congress were discussed yesterday by the executive committee of the American Steamship Owners' Association. The shipowners will meet shortly with builders and operators and will prepare a joint report to the House and Senate committees.

It is understood that special attention is being given to the compensa-

tion provided for ships of less than thirteen knots speed, and also to the subsidy for vessels owned by industrial corporations.

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